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West Virginia Library Association

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West Virginia Libraries 1954 Vol.7 No.1

Floyd W. Miller

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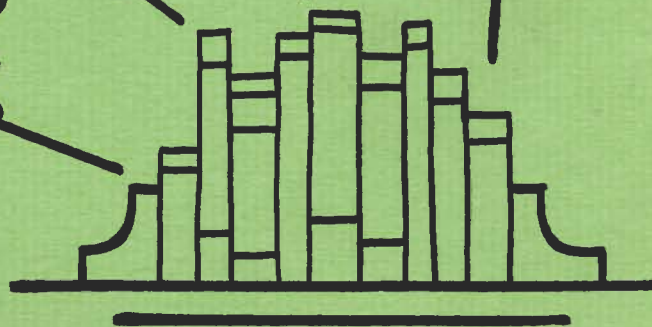
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West Virginia Libraries



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Library
West Virginia University

"BROWSING" IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

**** by George W. Hewitt

To wander and choose at your will among the shelves of the Public Library is one of the finest privileges that can be given to anyone.

The large working library at home is a thing of the past---we can't get the help to keep the books clean nor the room to store a goodly supply now days.

At the Public Library we have the whole world, all history, progress, adventure, travel, science and human thought to select from. Of course, it does not have every book ever published, but there is no need of that, there are plenty there and always modern summaries can be had to cover all these things with complete satisfaction under any conditions.

What a treat there is in store for you when you take your time amongst the shelves and inspect one by one the books whose subjects interest you.

You notice a book you read as a little fellow, which disappeared from your possession many years ago. Let's sit down for a half hour with it and dip into it here and there. Yes, you remember pretty well what you thought when you read that chapter long ago. It gives you a queer feeling to realize how much more you know about the basic facts of that subject, but you wish with all your heart you were back in the world of that boy and his attitude toward it. You have gained, but you have also lost as the years rolled by.

Replacing the old familiar book with a sigh, your eye runs along the shelves. Ah! there's a fairly new book on geology. You have just been thinking that you would like to understand more about that uncovered ground strata you saw while riding the other day. Let's look it over right here.

Yes, the pictures look clear and interesting, and as you read here and there the subject matter seems to be presented in a logical and understandable way. Let's put it aside to take home for some good evenings of reading.

There's a travel book you notice among many. You do feel like a trip these days (at least in imagination) and that country is one you especially like to see or read about. This book looks pretty good, but some of these others might be inspected also. Well, there went a half-hour! I just opened one of these other travel books and where I started to read it got so interesting I read the whole chapter. I've got a good start on my trip anyway.

I don't want to miss the mathematics shelf. That new book of last year by that brainy Englishman may be there by now and I do want to see how he handles calculus, for instance. If I don't find that book there is another one there in which I want to look over a certain demonstration again.

I can't miss the Astronomy shelf right next to the Mathematics. Read the other day that astronomers feel they must revise star distance estimates. Let's look up how they do it now in one of these books and maybe I'll be able to go on and understand the new stuff.

Must not leave today without getting a good Civil War (or "War Between the States") book. What a drama that was! Will look over some of the books about Generals and choose one.

Let's go over to the "New Book" shelf. There is one by Gilbert Highet that looks interesting. This section on Shakespeare is really good. Here's a book that is worth reading carefully.

Now a look at the History shelves. The other day I saw a reference to the Thirty Years War, and realized that I

(Continued on pg.3)

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN FIVE DENOMINATIONAL COLLEGES IN WEST VIRGINIA

A thesis submitted by Miss Virgie Harris, Assistant Librarian, Davis and Elkins College, to the School of Library Science, Western Reserve University, 1952, in partial fulfillment for the M.S. in L.S. degree.

In this study Miss Virgie Harris has examined the historical development of the library in five West Virginia privately endowed schools. The colleges included were Alderson-Broadus, Bethany, Davis and Elkins, Salem, and West Virginia Wesleyan.

Tracing chronologically the evolution of the library in five clearly defined periods at these individual institutions the author's discussion includes: growth of the book collections; housing of the collections; brief biographies of various library administrators; financing of the book collection; and student use of library materials.

The first chapter of the study is devoted to the period of 1842-1910. Alderson-Broadus (1876) at the conclusion of its first 34 years of life had a library of 1,500 books, most of which were probably in the field of literature.

Bethany College (1840) library was given financial support, two years after the founding of the college, through a \$10.00 fee assessed each new student. In this first chapter the school had a trained librarian, a separate building, and a book collection in excess of 6,000 volumes.

Davis and Elkins (1904) had only modest starts toward a book collection. There was no librarian, no apparent funds for a book collection, and no library building, though there was a supervised study room. The school did have a library committee. In 1906 this group decided that "ponies" for Caesar, et al, should be in locked cases.

Salem College (1889) had a functioning book collection of 1,800, ten years after it was founded. At the close of its first 22 years there was a librarian who had supervision over a book collection in excess of 4,000 volumes.

West Virginia Wesleyan (1890) had a functional library of over 3,000 books which were cataloged by the Dewey system within a period of six years after its founding. Despite a fire which occurred in 1905 and destroyed the library, the book collection had been rebuilt to 6,500 books in 1909. There was a full time librarian administering the collection.

The next four chapters trace the development of the library in the five schools across a 40 year period to their status as we know them today.

Miss Harris has written a very interesting and informative report that can be read with profit to all engaged in college library work. It is apparent from this study, however, that while college librarians are apparently successful in preserving the heritage of the world, they are failing to preserve a written account of their own labors.

(Reviewed by: Gilbert F. Fairmont State College)

*** **

W.V.L.A. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Memberships to the W.Va. Library Association are still coming in almost daily. At present 70 individuals are members and 21 institutions. The new membership card designed by Charles Loudermilk is an attractive revision. Your chairman, Omar Bacon, would like to get the names of librarians, trustees, friends, etc. who are not yet members. Or, better yet, have them send the \$2.00 individual fee to him. There is still ample time to become a member of the great and important West Virginia Library Association.

("BROWSING" can't from pg.1)
know very little about it. Now I'll
select just the book to cover that.

What pleasure it has been today
to "browse" in the Library! What a
privilege has been mine! As I leave
today I am already anticipating my
next visit and have a deep feeling of
thankfulness to the organization that
has given to all of us such opportuni-
ty and such inspiration.

** *** **

Mr. George W. Hewitt, who wrote
the above article is a patron of the
Ohio County Public Library. Upon
graduation from the University of Wis-
consin, he began work with the Nation-
al Tube Company at Benwood in 1910.
Upon retirement in 1949 he was Assis-
tant Vice President in Charge of Oper-
ations. Of him, Miss Ebeling says, "Mr.
Hewitt was always one of our best bor-
rowers, and since his retirement comes
at least once a week to browse here in
the library."

WEST VIRGINIA NEEDS A STATE MUSEUM SAYS EDITOR GIESKE OF PARKERSBURG NEWS

Speaking before members of the West
Augusta Historical and Geological So-
ciety, Herman Everett Gieske, editor
of the Parkersburg News, recently sta-
ted that the state ought to establish
a modern museum of archives and his-
torical exhibits. He told the members
that Parkersburg would be ideally suit-
ed for the museum because of its his-
tory as one of the oldest major cities
and because of its easy accessibility.
He proposed that a legislative commit-
tee should be authorized to begin
plans for the museum. The enabling
act, he said, ought to be voted on at
the January, 1955 session of the leg-
islature. Editor Gieske stated, every
large population center in state ex-
cept Parkersburg has one kind of state
institution or another. However, said
Gieske, Parkersburg residents would
not quibble over the site if the state
should decide to construct a museum
elsewhere.

FIRST LIBRARIAN OF WESTON'S LOUIS BENNETT MEMORIAL LIBRARY DIES

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Stafford Root,
who served as the first librarian of
the Louis Bennett Memorial Library in
Weston and who was known throughout
the library world as one of the pion-
eers in children's library work, died
December 31, 1953, at her home in West
Hartford, Conn. Mrs. Root was 85 years
of age.

Mrs. Root's interest in children's
books developed when she began to read
to her two small daughters. In 1900
she organized the children's depart-
ment in the public library of Provi-
dence, Rhode Island, which city was
one of the first in the country to
have a well organized children's dept.

Before coming to Weston, in 1923,
to organize the Louis Bennett Memorial
Library, Mrs. Root established a chil-
dren's branch of the Lynchburg, Va.,
Public Library. After leaving West
Virginia, she organized or headed li-
braries at Petersham, North Adams, and
Athol, in Massachusetts; West Hartford
and Farmington, in Connecticut; and at
Great Neck on Long Island. Mrs. Root
also lectured at Yale, taught at dif-
ferent summer schools, and taught ex-
tension courses, including one at
Brown University.

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"BUDGETS" IS TOPIC FOR COLLEGE LIBRARY SECTION SPRING MEETING

Mr. Gilbert Fites, Librarian, Fair-
mont, announces that college library
budgets is the topic for discussion
at the Spring meeting of the College
Library Section of the W.Va. Associ-
ation of Higher Education. The
meeting takes place at Davis and
Elkins College, Friday afternoon,
April 2. Mr. E. Hugh Behymer, Beth-
any, and Floyd W. Miller, Glenville,
will present the subject, which is
to be followed by general discussion.

WEST VIRGINIANA

Davis Grubb, author of The Night of the Hunter (Harper, \$3.00), was born in Moundsville. Mr. Grubb sets his first novel in the Ohio river country around Mounasville, making vivid use of his familiarity with West Virginia life. The story is one of suspense and violence. All reviews of the book since its release in mid-February have been most favorable, and it seems destined to be one of the year's best sellers. Producer Paul Gregory has bought the movie rights to Mr. Grubb's story and Charles Laughton will direct the film.

The most recent book by Dorothy James Roberts, native of Elizabeth, is The Enchanted Cup (Appleton, \$3.75). The novel, which is based on Malory's Morte d'Arthur, is a retelling of the Tristram and Isolde legend. Miss Roberts spent some twenty years reading and studying the sources before she wrote the novel. It was serialized last summer in the Ladies Home Journal. The Enchanted Cup is Miss Roberts' 5th publication; a previous novel, A Durable Fire (1945), won the Ohioana Society fiction medal.

Another work may be expected soon by the "dean" of West Virginia historians, Charles H. Ambler. The new book will be a biography about Waitman Thomas Willey, the senator from the new state of West Virginia, who was instrumental in getting Congress to accept the constitution of the new state.

Two other new books about West Virginia by West Virginians are The West Virginian and His Government (Jones Prtg. Co., \$1.50), by Peter Woodrow Hendricks and The Kanawha Spectator (Jarrett Prtg. Co., \$5.00), by Julius A. de Gruyter. Mr. Hendricks wrote his book to acquaint the voter with the duties and qualifications necessary for a particular office. The work is replete with information re-

garding both elective and appointive offices on the county, district, state, and federal levels. The Kanawha Spectator is a comprehensive history of Charleston and the Kanawha Valley from the prehistoric mound builders to the political campaign of 1860. This is the first major investigation into the history of the area in nearly 50 years. The work includes interesting anecdotes, "recollections", and family genealogies.

Voices from Vale and Hill (Exposition, \$3.50), by Arthur Hall is a collection of writings treating the natural beauty, folklore, history, and industry of West Virginia. Mr. Hall was born in Elizabeth, where he now resides. A long-time newspaperman in Parkersburg, he published many of these essays in the Parkersburg News.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS
FOR THE MINDS OF MEN

At Ohio Wesleyan University, students are making plans for a counter-offensive against one of the Communists' most potent weapons in the "cold war"--books subsidized by the Russian Government teaching the party line. Working under the battle cry "Let's Throw the Books at 'Em," the students plan to launch their first attack on the Japanese front.

Students in the geography and geology departments are spearheading the movement. They have passed out handbills and put up posters telling the story of how Soviet-subsidized books are flooding the Japanese book stores and selling for about 6% of the cost of American books. The students are being asked to save their textbooks, which they would ordinarily sell at the end of the semester, put them with any surplus volumes on their shelves and contribute them for shipment to Japan as ammunition in the battle for men's minds.

ATTENTION: ALL LIBRARIANS
WORKSHOP MEETINGS TO BE HELD

Librarians, trustees, and Friends of the Library are invited to attend library science workshops to be held May 8 in Elkins and May 15 in Beckley.

Two Regional Advisory Conferences are being planned by the Public Library Section of WVLA for all persons interested in the operation of any type of library. These meetings are a result of the great success of the workshop held at Moundsville last Spring. You will have an opportunity to discuss your library problems and find solutions to them.

What problems do you want to discuss? At present a survey is being made to determine the questions to be considered. Whether you have or have not received a questionnaire relative to topics for discussion, it is URGED that you immediately write Miss Virginia Ebeling, Chairman, Public Library Section, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, and tell her what library problem you want considered at the meeting.

You may attend either or both of the meetings, although you may not live in either the Central or Southern Regions. The Central Region includes Barbour, Braxton, Gilmer, Lewis, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, Upsher, and Webster. Southern Region includes Boone, Clay, Cabell, Fayette, Greenbrier, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mason, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Putnam, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne, and Wyoming.

Mark your calendar now for May 8 or May 15. If you have not received a program by May 1st, write Miss Ebeling for one.

Is your library trying for the John Cotton Dana Publicity Award? The award is given annually to libraries of various sizes and types which carry on excellent publicity. The Wilson Library Bulletin and the ALA Public Relations Committee will make the award at the ALA annual meeting. Any library may qualify by submitting an entry blank by April 15 and a scrapbook showing a cross section of the library's publicity by May 15. Entry blanks can be obtained from Wilson Library Bulletin or ALA headquarters.

COULD MR. KINGERY BE WRONG; OR...??

A Letter to the Editor.

"Dear Mr. Miller:

"On page 5 of the December issue of West Virginia Libraries, under the heading, "Do you know," there is a quotation from Kingery - 'Opportunities in Library Careers, p. 22.' While we want to boost West Virginia, I doubt that the salary range as a state range is one of the highest. I do think that, speaking of Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia as a region, the figures are accurate, because of the high federal government salaries.

"I think that the quotation should have been preceded by more explanation as to regional implication. Perhaps this is not serious, but I think we need all the ammunition possible to get salaries up, rather than 'padding ourselves on the back' just because federal salaries puts us into a high regional category. Sincerely yours, /s/ Dora Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary, West Virginia Library Commission."

(Would anyone be interested in preparing a factual analysis of the salary situation in West Virginia?
----- Editor.)

West Virginia Libraries is the official organ of the West Virginia Library Association. It is published quarterly. Contributions and other communications should be addressed to the appropriate Editorial Assistant. Subscription is included with the membership dues. To non-members the annual subscription rate is one dollar to persons and two dollars to institutions.

Vol. 7, no. 1 March 1954

Editor..... Floyd W. Miller, Glenville State College, Glenville, W.Va.

Co-Editor.... Marcella Kramer, Kanawha County Public Library, Charleston

Editorial Assistants.....

E. Hugh Bohmyer, Bothany College, Bothany, Association News.

Mrs. Adrian Bolt, Waitman Barbo Public Library, Morgantown, Public Library News.

Mary Shipper, Potomac State School, Keyser, College Library News.

Hazel Fisher, Thomas Jefferson Jr. H.S., Charleston, School Library News.

Business Manager... Vito Brenni, W.Va. University, Morgantown, W.Va.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Most of the news which I have this time is being reported by my co-workers. I want to call attention to the work which is being done by the Association.

First, however, an announcement about the fall meeting of the Association. It will be held in Bothany, October 22 and 23. The Association has not met in the northern panhandle since 1932. Because of the travel time involved and because we feel that we should have more time for discussion, a two-day meeting is being planned. Although the program is only a tentative one, we shall have registration on Friday morning with the opening session called for 11 A.M., luncheon

at 12:30, and an afternoon session with outside speakers. A buffet supper at 6:30 with a short program, group meetings afterwards, and following that a party.

The Saturday morning session will be given over to the business of the Association, and a continuation of the program begun on Friday afternoon, Luncheon, and a session in the afternoon followed by the report of the nominating committee and election of officers. We would like to have a dinner meeting and a general "get-together" on Saturday night with a program provided by the College.

We have had a number of inquiries already about exhibits, programs, etc. and I have every confidence that it will be worth while.

Secondly, I want to call your attention to the meeting of the "Tri-State Chapter" of the Association of College and Reference Libraries which will be held in Bothany on May 1. I hope, of course, that as many librarians as can will attend this meeting.

I have had inquiry from the General Chairman of the Middle Atlantic Regional Library Conference, Dr. W. K. Valencik of the Allegheny Free Library, asking if West Virginia would be interested in forming a permanent committee made up of State Presidents and others and that plans be set in motion to hold a meeting at least once every three years. I should like to have an expression of opinion.

You may be interested to know that the Association has received a check for \$178 as its share of the "profits" from the Atlantic City meeting. This does not include the return of the \$50 which we paid in at the beginning as our part of the expenses, and which was previously returned. I think we did rather well!

In another part of West Virginia Libraries, Miss Ebeling is announcing

the meetings which will be held in Elkins and in Beckley. I expect to be present at these meetings, and it is my sincere hope that I will be able to meet all the librarians of the area at these times.

The Association owes a real debt of gratitude to Mr. Bacon for the work which he is doing as Chairman of the Membership Committee. Those of you who know of librarians who ought to be members of the Association and are not will please give Mr. Bacon some assistance in recruiting. An association is no stronger than its active membership, and we need the active co-operation of every librarian in the State.

How do you like the new cover? Our thanks goes to Mr. Miller and his staff, who have been doing and are doing such a fine job.

We regret seeing Miss Bernice Headings leave the state. She was a faithful and tireless worker in the Association. Mr. Gilbert Fites has been appointed by the Executive Board to fill the rest of Miss Headings term of office as Chairman of the College Library Section. At present, Mr. Fites is planning the program for the College Section of the W.Va. Assn. of Higher Education. I hope all college librarians will be able to attend the meeting this spring.

What are you doing to promote the work of the West Virginia Library Commission?

E. Hugh Behymer, Pres.
W.Va. Library Association.

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The ALA Membership Directory, 1953 reports 101 West Virginia librarians as members of the national library association. This is a decrease of 28% from the total of 122 librarians who were members of the A.L.A. in 1951.

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FIRST TRI-STATE ACRL CHAPTER PROGRAM MEETING SET FOR MAY 1 AT BETHANY.

Members of the Tri-State Chapter of ACRL, meeting in Pittsburgh on Feb. 13, formally adopted a constitution and voted to hold their first program meeting at Bethany College on May 1. Fifty members were present to approve the constitution which was drafted by a committee headed by Miss Esther Fawcett, Fine Arts Librarian, Carnegie Institute of Technology.

All librarians interested in ACRL are invited to attend the meeting. A \$2.00 registration and luncheon fee will be charged. The program arranged is as follows:

10 A.M. Registration
(Eastern Daylight Savings Time)
11 A.M. Business Meeting.

12:30 P.M. Luncheon.
Speaker: Miss Emilio Jacobson
Topic: "Humor--The Weapon of A
Free People."

1:45 P.M. Program Meeting.
President's Address: "The Philosophy of Librarianship."
Mr. Arthur T. Hamlin, Exec. Sec. of ACRL, ALA Headquarters will speak on: "What the ACRL can mean to you."
Discussion. (Following discussion tea will be served by wives of the Faculty Library Committee.

Officers of the Tri-State Chapter are: E. Hugh Behymer, pres.; John B. Nicholson, Kent State Univ., vice-pres.; and Miss Mabel Kocher, Westminster College, secretary-treasurer.

Is there but one county in the State with School Library Supervisors? In the ALA Membership Directory, 1953, the Wood County School Library Supervisors, Olive D. Lewis and Margaret Moss, are the only ones listed.

CLARKSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Clarksburg Public Library and three colleges are among the beneficiaries of the estimated two million dollar estate of the late Melvin G. Sperry, wealthy lawyer and financier who died February 4.

For the public library, Mr. Sperry had set up a perpetual trust fund of \$50,000 to be known as "The Stanley Clemans Fund." At semi-annual periods the net income from the investment of this money will be paid to the Board of Directors of the public library. The money is to be used exclusively for the purchase of books. The library expects an annual income between \$1500 and \$3000 from the fund.

HARDY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, MOOREFIELD

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pryce-Jones held an open house for a public showing of their furniture and art collection for the benefit of the Hardy Co. Public Library building fund.

The Pryce-Jones' moved into the Moorefield community last summer and furnished their home with 17th and 18th century French and Italian antiques collected during his many years in government service abroad. Among the many unusual furnishings are a Louis XIV chandelier, whose mate still hangs in the palace at Versailles, and a 14th century Italian dower chest.

The hall furniture was once the property of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria; in the palace of Schoenbrunn, Vienna; and the drawing room furniture came from the castle of Pavia in Italy. The art collection includes signed oil paintings by Mignard, Moroni, and Tintoretto. Of the six known paintings by the 17th century artist, Galgario, one is owned by the National Gallery, and one by the Pryce-Jones'.

One dollar was donated by each visitor to the exhibition. The contributions, which totaled \$100, were turned over to the Hardy County Public Library Board for the building fund.

OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The "Parade of Progress", a television program from WTRF-TV in Wheeling, is using the library's picture collection. To portray the valley's growth and development the W.C. Brown collection of early Wheeling photographs are shown on the program, which is televised at 6:30 Sunday evenings. Recent movies of the area and interviews with industrialists about the future of the valley bring the story up-to-date.

Five films have been purchased by the library on a rent-to-own basis. Two of the initial purchases, "Silent Night" and "Night Before Christmas" were viewed by 3,850 people during December. The other films acquired are "Easton," "American Flag," and "New England Background of Literature."

Mr. John E. Warner, Assistant Librarian, West Liberty State College, has completed a subject index on cards to the West Virginia Educational Bulletin from September 1946 to date. He would like to know whether any West Virginia publications, not included in standard library indexes, have been indexed by other libraries, or whether they would be interested in having such indexes.

KANAWHA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Year end statistics showed an increase of slightly more than 5% in the number of registered borrowers, now totalling some 26,600. In the county-wide membership drive among the schools Fort Hill school was highest with 95% of the pupils registered as borrowers.

An order for a new bookmobile has been placed with the Swab Wagon Co.; delivery is expected about June 1. With a second bookmobile it will be possible to give more book service to county residents.

WAITMAN BARBE PUBLIC LIB.(MORGANTOWN)

The Friends of the Library, organized slightly over a year ago and now a large, active group, is focusing public attention on library services, facilities, and needs of the Morgantown library for the purpose of stimulating an active program for development and expansion of the present public library. The community is being made aware of the library through news paper articles, public meetings, public displays on books and libraries, and radio programs.

At the first annual meeting of the "Friends" in October, Brooks Gottle, of the Morgantown Post, led the discussion on library building projects and status and needs of the local library. During the business session a membership campaign was planned. In a successive meeting the film "Impressionable Years" was shown and followed with a discussion on "What is involved in a community's planning for a public library building?" Harold Shanberger of the University's Bureau of Government Research, spoke at the next meeting on the topic "The Tax Road to A Public Library Building."

Weekly radio programs sponsored by the Friends, have been inaugurated. The first in the series was a panel discussion on the problems and plans of the organization. During January and February programs included; Charles Butler, W.Va. University Librarian, reading poems from his book Cut is the Branch (Yale, 1945); two critics, R.E. Foster and T.Y. Greet of the University, discussing William Faulkner; a dramatic play by the Baker Street Irregulars, local Sherlock Holmes fans; and a program by the Monongalia County Historical Society. A series of programs on notable literary careers will be heard during March. John Preston, of the University library, began the series with a talk "Opening Guns."

Under the auspices of the organization, displays are being prepared

and exhibited by local groups in the window of the Hope Gas Co. Groups participating have included the Community Players, Baker Street Irregulars, West Virginia University library science students, and the League of Women Voters. The displays call attention to the services of the library.

Other methods of making the community aware of the library have included: a booth at the Elks Club Hobby Show, where books on hobbies and children's books were displayed, and information given on the needs and services of the library; and a news bulletin is being regularly issued to members of the "Friends" to keep them informed of activities.

Between October and February membership in the "Friends" increased from 70 to 301 adults and 132 junior members. Library circulation also shows the effect of the organization's activity. The circulation for January was 2860 books as compared to 1607 for the same month in 1953.

HUNTINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mid-year Report: The library issued a mid-year report to its three levying bodies containing a resume of the library's progress. Circulation for the period was up nearly 9% over the first 6 months of last year. A continuing shift to non-fiction reading is evident. Adult fiction increased 5.7% while non-fiction rose 14.8%. Juvenile fiction dropped 2.7%, but non-fiction rose 30.3%. Use of non-book materials increased 55%. New borrowers increased by 12% over the comparable period last year.

Improvement: The public meeting room was sound conditioned to prepare it for use of sound films. Gulliver, the bookmobile, had a major motor overhaul, tires retreaded, and ceiling painted white for better light reflection; the interior was also rearranged enabling some 500 additional books to be carried.

PERSONALITIES

Mr. E. Hugh Behymer is planning to teach at Albany New York State Teachers College during the summer. He will have courses in college library administration and reference and will also give a series of seminar lectures. John E. Warner is now assistant librarian at West Liberty State College. Mr. Mark Crum, Librarian, Kanawha County Public Library, attended the ALA winter meeting in Chicago.

George Williams, head reference librarian, Kanawha County Pub. Lib., resigned Dec. 31 to become librarian of the History & Political Science Graduate Library, Ohio State University. He has been replaced by Mark Jerome Foley. Mr. Foley received his A.B. from St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kansas, and his M.A. in L.S. from University of Michigan. He was previously librarian of Conception Abbey Library, Conception, Mo. Mr. Foley is married and has one daughter.

"Facts Are Stranger Than Fiction" was the title of an article by Charles A. Loudermilk, Asst. Reference Librarian of Kanawha County Public Library, that appeared in the December issue of West Virginia Magazine. The article is an excellent description of a reference librarian's fascinating work.

John W. Croager, Librarian, South High School, Youngstown, Ohio, and former president of the Ohio Association of School Librarians, will teach courses in school library administration and reference at Glenville State College during the summer session. Mr. Floyd W. Miller of Glenville State College will attend the School of Library Science, Univ. of Illinois, during the summer. He expects to complete course requirements for an M.S. in L.S. this year.

Miss Florence Reese, library science instructor, W. Va. University, was program chairman for the October meeting of the Morgantown "Friends." Miss Katherine C. Dwyre, acquisitions libra-

rian at the University, is a member of the Morgantown Friends of the Library. She recently served on the nominations committee. Betty Lee Spencer, former Waitman Barbo (Morgantown) librarian, is now circulation assistant in the University library. Miss Spencer plans to begin work this summer on her library degree at the University of North Carolina. Although now a university librarian, Betty keeps in contact with public library work by serving on the membership committee for the Morgantown Friends of the Library.

JAMES E. MORROW LIBRARY, MARSHALL COLLEGE

"Recent American Woodcuts," an exhibition circulated by the Museum of Modern Art of New York, were on view at the art gallery of the James E. Morrow Library during January. The exhibit featured 38 prints demonstrating the revival of interest in the art of woodcut in various parts of the U.S. This was the third exhibit to be presented by the Marshall Art Dept. with the cooperation of Libr'n, Rosa Oliver.

BETTER "MYSTERY SELECTION SUGGESTED"

The Toledo Public Library gets out for its staff a mimeographed fortnightly bulletin, the Tec-Pec. In a recent issue Robert Franklin, assistant director of the library and editor of the bulletin, said "We would urge any library that doesn't have a suggestion box in which the public and staff can put signed or anonymous suggestions to install one. Ours has reaped a harvest in the last seven years. All sorts, of course." Among recent suggestions for book purchases "we sympathized especially with the last, 'interesting mystery books,' because as one who likes to read a good mystery about five or six times a year we have an awful time finding one among the scads gathered on the floor racks. Of those we examine, at least half either don't appeal, or once started, prove dull. What this library needs is a better guide to the really good ones, old and new, and higher standards of selection. ---Pub. Weekly p. 1023-6. Feb. 20, 1954.